

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 11-16, 30-48 and 51 are pending. Claims 1, 30 and 51 are amended. Support for claim amendments is found in paragraph 18 of the originally-filed specification. New claim 52 is added and is supported by paragraph 17.

In the above referenced Office Action, claims 1-8, 11-16, 30-48 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boser (U.S. 5,676,694) and/or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boser. In the previous response, Applicant articulated distinctions between the pending claims and the cited reference thus indicating the reference insufficient to anticipate the claims. The previous response is incorporated herein by reference. Claim 1, as amended, recites "the first groove having a groove width smaller than the outer diameter of the insulative outer layer".

Boser discloses a conductive sleeve 312 having a tubular portion 313 through which a conductor passes. The sleeve 312 includes a protrusion 315 having a groove 314 for holding a coil. The Examiner interprets the protrusion 315 having a first groove where protrusion 315 meets tubular portion 313 and a second groove 314 in protrusion 315. Applicant respectfully traverses. The Examiner's interpretation does not correspond to what is actually taught. The wire extends through the tubular portion 313, which is below the so-called "groove" and so therefore the wire is not held by and does not extend directly through the so-called "groove." The so-called "groove" does not have an open side since it is merely the meeting point where the protrusion 315 extends from the tubular portion 313 and is therefore not a functional groove for receiving the wire through an open side or for directly holding a wire as in claim 1. It appears that sleeve 312 is a unitary component, however, if tubular portion 313 were somehow removed from sleeve 312, the so-called "groove" would still not be functional for holding the wire as suggested by the Examiner because its height formed by the relatively short side walls would be too shallow for holding a wire. Furthermore, the so-called "groove" that meets tubular portion 313 has a diameter that is greater than the outer insulation of the wire as clearly shown in Figure 3. The instant invention addresses a need for low

profile junctions by providing a component having a groove with an open side for receiving an uninsulated portion of the wire through the open side and has a groove width that is smaller than an outer diameter of the wire outer insulation. Boser fails to teach, among other things, a first groove having an open side for receiving the wire or cable and having a groove width smaller than the outer diameter of the insulative outer layer. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicant asserts that the remarks presented herein are fully responsive to the Office Action and are sufficient to overcome the rejections presented in the Office Action. However, there may be other arguments to be made as to why the pending claims are patentable. Applicant does not concede any such arguments by having not presented them herein.

Please grant any extension of time, if necessary for entry of this paper, and charge any fee due for such extension or any other fee required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

/Carol F. Barry/
Carol F. Barry
Reg. No. 41,600
(763) 514-4673
Customer No. 27581